



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Public Relations Specialist Pleads Guilty to Tax Charges - Michael Jackson's Former General Manager Didn't File Her Own Tax Returns -**

WASHINGTON - Raymone Bain, a public relations specialist and the former general manager of the late pop star Michael Jackson, pled guilty today to charges that she failed to file federal and District of Columbia income tax returns.

The guilty plea, which took place in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, was announced by U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General John A. DiCicco of the Department of Justice's Tax Division, Rebecca A. Sparkman, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, and D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue Deputy Chief Financial Officer Stephen M. Cordi.

Bain, a resident of Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty to two counts of failure to file federal income tax returns (Forms 1040) and District of Columbia income tax returns (Forms D-40). U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan Kay scheduled sentencing for Aug. 31, 2011. The federal criminal violation carries a maximum penalty of 12 months in prison and a \$100,000 fine. The District of Columbia criminal violation carries a maximum penalty of six months in prison and \$5,000 fine.

According to the evidence presented in court, Bain worked in the sports and entertainment industry in the District of Columbia and founded her public relations firm, Davis, Bain & Associates. Beginning in 2006, Bain became personal general manager for the performer Michael Jackson and president of the Michael Jackson Company. In that capacity, she was responsible for daily operations of the Michael Jackson Company, including financial, public relations and marketing tasks. Bain was compensated for her services.

Despite earning substantial income, Bain knowingly failed to file her federal and her District of Columbia income tax returns, and she failed to pay income taxes owed during 2006 through 2008. According to the plea documents filed in court today, the tax loss is between \$200,000 and \$400,000.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Machen, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Tax DiCicco, IRS-Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Sparkman, and OTR Deputy Chief Financial Officer Cordi praised the efforts of those who worked on the case from IRS-Criminal Investigation and the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue. They also acknowledged the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Menzer and Department of Justice Trial Attorney Karen E. Kelly, who are prosecuting the matter.

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